

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

December 1, 2008

An act relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 23, as introduced, Jones. Health care coverage.

Existing law does not provide a system of health care coverage for all California residents. Existing law provides for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements. These programs include the Healthy Families Program administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board and the Medi-Cal program administered by the State Department of Health Care Services. Existing law provides for the regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and health insurers by the Department of Insurance.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to accomplish the goal of universal health care coverage for all California residents within 5 years, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to accomplish
- 2 the goal of universal health care coverage for all California

1 residents within five years. To accomplish this goal, the Legislature
2 proposes to take all of the following steps:

3 (a) Ensure that Californians have access to affordable,
4 comprehensive health care coverage, including all California
5 children regardless of immigration status, with subsidies for
6 Californians with low incomes.

7 (b) Leverage and coordinate with federal health care programs
8 and available federal funding, to the greatest extent possible,
9 including, but not limited to, Medicaid and the State Children's
10 Health Insurance Program, in support of health care coverage for
11 low-income and disabled populations, and other health system
12 improvement goals.

13 (c) Maintain and strengthen the health insurance system and
14 improve availability, cost-effectiveness, and affordability of private
15 health care coverage for all purchasers, including employers,
16 employees, and individuals.

17 (d) Implement meaningful, systemwide cost containment
18 strategies, expand access to primary and preventive services, and
19 ensure effective management of chronic illnesses.

20 (e) Engage in early and systematic evaluation at each step of
21 the implementation process to identify the impacts on state costs,
22 the costs of coverage, employment and insurance markets, health
23 delivery systems, quality of care, and overall progress in moving
24 toward universal coverage.